



PEDESTRIAN AND BIKE CROSSING OF I-270 AT MD 28

CITY OF ROCKVILLE

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Sister City Friendship Bridge

INTRODUCTION

Rockville is one of the largest cities in Maryland and County Seat of Montgomery County. With a population of over 48,000 Rockville is known as a residential community and an employment center. The City is designated a Smart Growth Area, and is committed to encouraging smart growth within the corporate limits to development an integrated transportation system that supports all modes of transportation. This approach gives residents and visitors alternatives to travel solely by automobile.

The prestigious I-270 corridor traverses through Rockville's corporate limits for nearly four miles. However, the crossing of I-270 was identified as a priority by residents, and an addition of a multi-use trail to the south side of the MD 28 Bridge was concluded as being the solution to provide a much needed connection across I-270 to downtown Rockville. Previously, this route was not deemed a safe or accessible route for pedestrians or bicyclists.

THE CROSSING OF I-270 AT MD 28

The Pedestrian and Bike Crossing of I-270 at MD 28 was planned in 2002 as a multi-use trail stretching about 4,000 linear feet to connect downtown Rockville at Nelson Street on the eastern side of the interchange to Darnestown Road at Key West Avenue to the west of I-270. This link was identified as a

priority by residents in the Bikeway Master Plan that was adopted in 1998. I-270 presented a major barrier to access town center from the west. There was currently NO safe crossing at this interchange. There were no sidewalks, shoulders, or crosswalks. The ramps to access I-270 were built for high speeds and there are plans for further expansion, creating an increased need for a facility suitable for pedestrians and bicyclists to cross the interstate.

This interchange consists of a Maryland State Highway Route (MD 28) crossing a Federally Funded State Highway (I-270) within the corporate limits of Rockville. When the bridge on MD 28 was renovated in 1982, no pedestrian facilities were incorporated. Since that time, this interchange has been inaccessible to Rockville's pedestrians and bicyclists.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The final constructed project is about 0.75 miles in length, and connects Darnestown Road to the west with Nelson Street and Adclare Road to the east and downtown Rockville, crossing I-270. The trail is ten feet in width, with two bridges spanning I-270 and Ramp C to southbound I-270.

The project is designed in conformance to the recommendations of the Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities as published by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). The

applicable standards of the Maryland State Highway Administration (MSHA), the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the City of Rockville requirements were utilized. The project includes:

- Two bridges and approaches to span: I-270 on the south side of existing bridge and Ramp C to southbound I-270
- Aesthetic enhancements to structures (use of form liners)
- Approximately 2,000 linear feet of asphalt multi-use trail of 10-foot width
- Pedestrian signal upgrades, including audible, at Nelson Street
- Landscaping and signage
- SWM and water quality enhancement, along with an educational exhibit for trail users to overlook the enhanced SWM facility.

CURRENT STATUS

The project was bid in 2005, with successful award to Pessoa Construction Company. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in October 2007. The City of Rockville dedicated the pedestrian bridge as the "Sister City Friendship Bridge", in tribute to the 50th anniversary of the Sister City relationship between Rockville and Pinneberg, Germany.

FUNDING

Funding allocation was successfully obtained by the City from the Transportation Enhancement Program of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) for \$3,200,00 and was applied towards the overall cost of the project at over \$5,200,000. The Maryland State Highway Administration administered the funding and were instrumental in the project's success.

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DESIGN CONSULTANT

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